

Indeed, I may here remark that I have proposed the name *Ovis brookei* out of respect to the assiduous labours undertaken by that gentleman, who is now engaged in the production of a monograph of the sheep, illustrated by Mr. Wolf.

The head of this new Sheep now exhibited is believed to have been obtained by Sir Morrison Barlow some years since at Leh, in Ladak. It was parted with to a friend, from whom it subsequently passed, upwards of two years since, into my possession.

The late Mr. Blyth, who was so high and excellent an authority on sheep, was very desirous of describing the specimen which I have this evening brought before the Meeting; but I preferred to defer his doing so till I had obtained other heads. This I have not yet been able to accomplish; I, however, hope to do so shortly, and thus to be further enabled to supplement my remarks in support of this new species.

#### 4. On *Crocodylus madagascariensis*, the Madagascar Crocodile.

By DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

[Received January 30, 1874.]

(Plate XXIII.)

Cuvier, in the 'Ossemens Fossiles,' p. 44, mentions a specimen of a Crocodile from Madagascar, brought by M. Havet, and considers it the same as the one from continental Africa; I was inclined to do the same with two specimens of the young in spirits, which the Museum received as coming from Madagascar. Lately the British Museum has received a rather larger specimen direct from Mr. Lormier, who collected in Madagascar; and on comparing this specimen and the other two with specimens of *C. vulgaris* from continental Africa, of about the same size, I find that they all have the beak rather longer and slenderer compared with its breadth, and with straighter sides. At the same time, the sides of the lower jaw of all the specimens from Madagascar are pale and marbled with darker spots, and the sides of the abdomen of the larger stuffed specimens are marked with dark rounded spots placed in oblique cross lines—two peculiarities which I have not observed in any of the specimens from continental Africa. I am therefore inclined to think they indicate that the Crocodile which inhabits Madagascar is distinct from that which inhabits continental Africa; and I propose to call it *Crocodylus madagascariensis*.

I have seen it somewhere observed that the Crocodile of Madagascar is like the Crocodile from America, *Molinia acuta*; but this is a mistake; for although its head somewhat approaches in shape and proportion to that of *Molinia acuta*, its skull and the shields of the body are those of a true Crocodile.

The true Crocodiles have a cross series of four or six small occipital shields in a line, and a nuchal disk behind them of six larger keeled

shields. The back has six regular longitudinal ridges of keeled shields, with one or two more or less distinct series of smaller keeled shields on the outside of the six larger ones. The two central keels of the shields are continued down the base of the tail to about the middle; the two lateral series of keeled shields are distinct for thirteen or fourteen cross series to just before the thighs, and at the fourteenth or fifteenth they are continued in a single series on each side of the tail, becoming much enlarged in the middle of the upper part of the tail, and then united into one central series of larger more compressed scales to the end of the tail.

The genus *Molinia* is known from *Crocodylus* by the dorsal shields being much more irregular. There are generally only two, rarely four, occipital shields, forming a cross line, the outer ones, when present, being smaller. The nuchal disk is formed of six large oblong keeled shields. The dorsal disk is formed of six longitudinal series of keeled scales: the two central series are the largest, but with bluntest keels; and they are continued to the base of the tail, when the keel becomes obliterated. The two lateral series are irregular, the inner one the largest, and it is continued over the top of the thighs, and down the side of the tail; the outer one is very irregular, interrupted, and with one or two small shields on the outside of it. This genus is at once known by the second series of shields on each side being continued along the side of the tail, and not the second and third on each side uniting and being continued along the side of the tail.

*CROCODYLUS MADAGASCARIENSIS.* (Plate XXIII.)

The beak slender, elongate, with a slight ridge on each side of the central line, united just behind the nostrils. Sides of the lower jaw pale, with large irregular black spots.

*C. vulgaris*, var., Cuvier, Oss. Foss. p. 44; Gray, Hand-list Sh. Rept., p. 135. Specimens "o" and "p."

*Hab.* Madagascar.

B.M.

There are three specimens of this Crocodile in the British Museum:—two in spirits, one (63. 5. 21. 4) purchased of the Zoological Society as *Crocodylus vulgaris*, and one (65. 3. 4. 5) of Mr. Stevens; also one stuffed 35½ in. long (73. 11. 10. 1), purchased of Mr. Higgins, collected by Mr. Lormier, who was lately accidentally burnt to death in Madagascar.

5. Note on the Cranial and Dental Characters of the Northern and Southern Tigers and Leopards of China as affording Marks of their Specific Distinction. By GEORGE BUSK, V.P.Z.S.

[Received February 17, 1874.]

(Plates XXIV. & XXV.)

Mr. Robert Swinhoe has brought with him from China two Tiger skulls, one of which is, I believe, a unique specimen in Europe of the